

BOB STUMP, ARIZONA
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN R. KASICH, OHIO
HERBERT H. BATEMAN, VIRGINIA
JAMES V. HANSEN, UTAH
CURT WELDON, PENNSYLVANIA
JOEL HEFLEY, COLORADO
JIM SAXTON, NEW JERSEY
STEVE BUYER, INDIANA
TILLIE K. FOWLER, FLORIDA
JOHN M. MCHUGH, NEW YORK
JAMES M. TALENT, MISSOURI
TERRY EVERETT, ALABAMA
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON, CALIFORNIA
J.C. WATTS, JR., OKLAHOMA
MAC THORNBERRY, TEXAS
JOHN N. HOSTETTLER, INDIANA
SAXBY CHAMBLISS, GEORGIA
VAN HILLEARY, TENNESSEE
JOE SCARBOROUGH, FLORIDA
WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA
LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JIM RYUN, KANSAS
BOB RILEY, ALABAMA
JIM GIBBONS, NEVADA
MARY BONO, CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBIN HAYES, NORTH CAROLINA
STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL, CALIFORNIA
DON SHERWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

FLOYD D. SPENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAIRMAN

May 17, 2000

SUPPORT THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL VOTE YES ON H.R. 4205

KE SKELTON, MISSOURI
NORMAN SISISKY, VIRGINIA
JOHN M. SPRATT, JR., SOUTH CAROLINA
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, TEXAS
OWEN PICKETT, VIRGINIA
LANE EVANS, ILLINOIS
GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HAWAII
MARTIN T. MEEHAN, MASSACHUSETTS
ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD, GUAM
PATRICK J. KENNEDY, RHODE ISLAND
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, ILLINOIS
SILVESTRE REYES, TEXAS
THOMAS H. ALLEN, MAINE
VIC SNYDER, ARKANSAS
JIM TURNER, TEXAS
ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
LORETTA SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
JAMES H. MALONEY, CONNECTICUT
MIKE MCINTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY, GEORGIA
ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT E. ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
BARON P. HILL, INDIANA
MIKE THOMPSON, CALIFORNIA
JOHN B. LARSON, CONNECTICUT

ANDREW K. ELLIS, STAFF DIRECTOR

Dear Colleague:

The President's budget request for fiscal year 2001 reverses the five-year decline in the nation's investment in research and development that has characterized previous requests. Nevertheless, the President's fiscal year 2001 proposal for research and development is \$427 million below the fiscal year 2000 appropriated level, and the request for basic and applied research and advanced development – the critical science and technology base that is the keystone of maintaining U.S. military technological superiority in the future – is \$853 million lower. Notwithstanding official statements from the Department of Defense that represent the research and development request as sufficient to address all high priority needs of the armed services, the budget request reflects a large and increasing number of high priority unfunded research and development requirements. Almost \$16 billion in modernization shortfalls have been identified by the uniformed service chiefs, the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, Special Operations Command, and other defense agencies.

The Armed Services Committee has taken a strong bi-partisan stand in support of critically needed modernization increases for our armed forces. H.R. 4205 recommends \$39.3 billion for research and development (\$1.4 billion over the President's request). Within this total, the bill meets over \$910 million of the unfunded research and development requirements of the service chiefs and defense agencies. H.R. 4205 strengthens DOD and service science and technology programs and supports bi-partisan initiatives in counter-terrorism, cyber-warfare, defense against weapons of mass destruction, and theater and national missile defense. This bill takes the necessary steps to support the near-term and the long-term modernization of our armed forces.

We urge you to support H.R. 4205 and join this committee's efforts to provide adequate support for defense modernization. Vote "YES" on H.R. 4205.

Sincerely,



Curt Weldon
Chairman, Military Research
& Development Subcommittee



Owen Pickett
Ranking Member, Military Research
& Development Subcommittee